



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

March 2006 Volume 67 Number 3

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Spring Equinox is March 20



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Rob Ewert, VE1KS	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
2nd V.P. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Secretary - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@eastlink.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large - Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA	craig.mackinnon1@ns.sympatico.ca	
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	835-4865	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market Chair - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@eastlink.ca
Field Day coordinator - Howard Dickson	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Guest speaker will be Scott Hawkes giving a presentation on the TMR system

Guests are welcome.

FOR SALE

National NC-300 receiver \$200 or reasonable offer. Bids accepted until March 15. Contact Fraser, VE1WO at 865-4198 or ve1wo@rac.ca

NOTICE

We are looking for people interested in getting fall arrest certification for tower climbing. The next certification will probably be **March** 2006. If interested please contact an executive member

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill, VE1MR, know.

March 12	Win	VE1WIN
March 19	Peter	VE1PJW
March 26	Doug	VE1LDL
April 2	Herb	VE1HX
April 9	Dave	VE1EDA
April 16	Charles	VE1MCR
April 23	Chris	VA1CDB



March 16th is the **Basic exam** for the current class. It will be held in the club station and any others interested in writing either the Basic or Advanced exam are welcome. Please contact Bill, VE1MR if you plan to write.

NOTICE

The Dartmouth repeater autopatch now requires an access code. Contact John, VE1WZ at 434-7095

Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday, April 8, 2006

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

Events for Your Calendar

March 18th, Saturday, 9AM - **Ham Breakfast** at the Steak and Stein on Young Street in Halifax.

The lower centre portion of the facility will be reserved for our group. Everyone will order from the normal breakfast menu and will be billed separately.

Coordinator – Howard (VE1DHD)

Getting onto the HF Bands - one-day tutorial/workshop sessions. Reservations are essential. See page 3 in this publication for details on how to reserve your seat at one of the following sessions.

Saturday April 1st PM

Wednesday April 5th PM

Saturday April 8th PM

May 13 – **Down East Fleamarket**

Place: Halifax Forum Annex, Corner of Windsor and Young St..

Sellers Access 06:30 hrs; Buyers 09:00 hrs Cost: \$4 Per Person

The Club will put on a number of **workshops** including **Power Point & DX for Windows**, iff there is enough interest. Let Howard, VE1DHD, know if you are interested in participating in such a workshop

2006 NSARA Picnic & AGM – Hosted by the Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club. Tentative date is the 2nd Saturday in August. Contact is Bernie, VE1UT. Check the NSARA website for developments.

The next **NSARA general meeting** will be at the DownEast Fleamarket, mid-May, 2006.

Field Day 2006 will be Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25.

0000Z June 3, to 2359Z June 4, 2006
Museum Ships Weekend Event.

75th anniversary of the Halifax Amateur Club - In 2008 the HARC will have been in operation for 75 years. We're looking for ideas and talents to plan & carry out celebrations to mark this event. Contact. Murray, VE1MMD, or Howard, VE1DHD

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 06
ARRL FIELD DAY 2006
Packages, Rules Now Available

The 2006 ARRL Field Day package <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/06-fd-packet.pdf>> and rules (HTML version <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/rules-fd-2006.html>>) (PDF version <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/06-fd-rules.pdf>>) now are available on the ARRL Web site.

"The only rule change in 2006 involves the GOTA ('Get On The Air') station bonus-point structure," says ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "An individual operator may earn a 50-point bonus for completing 50 QSOs at the GOTA station. They may earn an additional 50 bonus points when they reach 100 QSOs."

Henderson notes there's a 100-QSO cap for bonus points per individual GOTA operator, but additional GOTA operators may earn the bonuses for the club, up to a maximum of 500 GOTA bonus points.

"Additionally, Field Day operations can double their GOTA bonus points by having a designated GOTA Coach/Mentor supervise the station whenever it's on the air," Henderson notes. "The GOTA Coach/Mentor may talk the participants through the QSOs and serve as control operator, but GOTA participants must make and log all QSOs themselves."

This means that if a Field Day group has a GOTA Coach/Mentor, the 50 and 100-point bonuses GOTA operators earn will double to 100 and 200 points respectively, while the maximum GOTA bonus increases to 1000 points.

ARRL Field Day 2006 will be Saturday & Sunday, June 24-25

The HARC plans to produce a 75th Anniversary issue of the Callbook. Do you have any "historic" or otherwise suitable photos for this book?



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 06
Held in conjunction with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) HF World Championship, **World Radiosport Team Championship 2006** (WRTC-2006) takes place July 7-10 in and around Florianopolis, Brazil. There's more information on the WRTC-2006 Web site:

<http://www.wrtc2006.com/html/web/>

Puzzler- Do You Know?

If a person fails an amateur radio exam, how long must he (or she) wait before he (or she) can write the test again?



Answer is on page 7

Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.

HARC membership dues

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15

Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 06
At **DAYTON HAMVENTION 2006**

ARRL EXPO will return to Dayton this year. Hamvention takes place Friday through Sunday, May 19-21, at Hara Arena near Dayton, Ohio.

ARRL will organize its primary Hamvention exhibit in the Ball Arena, which allows plenty of room to showcase a broad variety of ARRL programs and services.

Dayton Hamvention itself will offer some 500 indoor exhibit/concession spaces in the Hara Arena, where visitors can feast their eyes on the latest Amateur Radio gear or touch bases with their favourite ham radio organizations and activity groups.

The outdoor flea market--the largest of its kind -- will again have more than 2500 spaces available.

Check <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2006/>> for ARRL EXPO 2006 updates.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have had a busy month with getting water and sewer hooked up to the house with associated plumbing etc. I am a bit behind in most other things so don't have a lot to say this month.

Look carefully at page 2 to see what is coming up with the club and elsewhere. I am sure there are some events you will want to take in and a few you may want to help with.

Participation in club events is always fun and the more people taking part the less each has to do.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

HARC NEEDS YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

Your club executive is committed to ensuring that all members act in a safe manner while involved in various aspects of our hobby. As a result, the executive has agreed to add the position of "Safety Officer" to our committee structure. If you have an interest in ensuring the continued safety of our members while involved in our hobby, we would like to hear from you. Duties would include acting as safety officer for various club events, presenting a short safety related talk or demonstration at regular meetings and preparing a short safety related insertion for the Reflector on a regular basis. If you are interested in taking on this position, please let Murray (VE1MMD) know either

in person,
by telephone at 876-0661
or by e-mail at
twomacds@eastlink.ca.

Language quirks – Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

The NSARA CONTEST Promoting Amateur Radio in Nova Scotia

DATE: The contest will take place each year on the second Sunday in March. In 2006 that will be March 12, 2006.

HOURS: The contest will run for EIGHT hours: in two four hour sessions. The Morning Session will begin at 8:00 am local time and will run for FOUR hours until 12:00pm local time. The Afternoon Session will begin at 2:00 pm local time and will run for FOUR hours until 6:00 pm local time.

OPERATING BAND

All contacts for contest credit will take place on the 80 meter band, PHONE and CW sections.

OPERATORS: Single transmitter but no restrictions on operators. SINGLE OP. or MULTI OP. permitted. FIELD DAY type portable operations to rare counties are encouraged, especially if BASIC ops. are involved.

SCORING: One point per completed contact on PHONE -Two points per completed contact on CW. The SAME station can be logged once on PHONE and once on CW.

MULTIPLIERS: The 18 Counties of Nova Scotia will count as multipliers Any ham from anywhere can take part, but only Nova Scotia Counties will count as multipliers. Each county can only be counted once, even if worked on both modes.

EXCHANGE: The exchange will be: CALL, SIGNAL REPORT, and COUNTY, with Nova Scotia stations. Non Nova Scotia stations contacting each other will exchange only call and signal report.

LOGGING: A separate log sheet should be kept for PHONE contacts as well as separate sheet for any CW contacts. The logs must clearly indicate whether the contact is PHONE or CW. The log must show:

- STATION WORKED
- TIME of contact (UTC or local),
- SIGNAL REPORT (usually 5x9 or 599),
- COUNTY, if the contact is with a NS station.

CERTIFICATES

Anyone who makes 25 or more contacts in the contest (regardless of score), and submits a log, will receive a "Participation Certificate". Stations making contacts with all 18 NS counties will have "Clean Sweep" indicated on their certificates, and they will also qualify for the NSARA WORKED ALL NOVA SCOTIA COUNTIES AWARD (WANSC) without QSL card submission.

SUBMIT LOGS: Contest entrants will have ONE MONTH to submit logs after the contest.

CONTEST COMMITTEE: The contest committee, composed of NSARA Directors, will make the final decision in all matters regarding this contest.

WINNER: The winner will receive a framed certificate, as well as having his/her photo in TCA and on the NSARA web page and local media etc.

Nova Scotia County List for use with THE NSARA CONTEST

The 18 Counties of Nova Scotia are as follows:

ANNAPOLIS	ANTIGONISH	CAPE BRETON	COLCHESTER
CUMBERLAND	DIGBY	GUYSBOROUGH	HALIFAX
HANTS	INVERNESS	KINGS	LUNENBURG
PICTOU	QUEENS	RICHMOND	SHELBURNE
VICTORIA	YARMOUTH		

This list can be used to check off the counties as you work them.

(Continued on page 4)

City Watch

By Howard Dickson – VE1DHD

City Watch is an automated telephone message delivery service that was developed by Aliant and is now being used by the City of Halifax. The Emergency Measures Organization has been using City Watch now for over a year, and the EMO Amateur Radio Advisory Group has used it for several months to communicate with its membership. One recent use involved the call-out of a large number of Radio Amateurs to take part in Exercise Sandpiper on the 9th of April 2005.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club is committed to public service and as such, all of its members should be aware that in the case of a large-scale emergency, there may be a need to get in touch with Club members on very short notice to see if they can assist with some aspect of radio communication.

In the event of a major disaster, where many Radio Amateurs may be required to assist by serving as emergency communicators, the City Watch system will likely be the method of choice for contacting Hams and directing them to a 'Standby Net'.

In order that all members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club can become both familiar and comfortable with this automated system, the Club has been given access to the **City Watch** System and has been urged to try it out.

I have loaded all of the phone numbers that are available for our Club members, as published in the Maritime Callbook, into a **City Watch** file. The plan is to have **City Watch** place a call to everyone on this list prior to the June monthly meeting of the HARC.

What can you expect when City Watch calls? You will receive a phone call and an automated voice will say, "THE FOLLOWING IS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB." There may be a brief period of silence and that will be followed by a message from Howard (VE1DHD) on behalf of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. When the message has finished, the automated voice will again request that you press #1 to confirm receipt of the message or #2 to replay the message. **It is important that you confirm receipt of the message before hanging up.**

What if I don't want to receive a call from HARC? If you do NOT want to receive phone messages from the Halifax ARC, I would ask that you send an Email directly to VE1DHD@RAC.ca with the following in the Subject Line – **Please remove VE1### (enter your call) from City Watch.**

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 08,

This month's 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I Island managed to put 87,034 contacts into its logbook during two weeks of operation before it shut down Feb. 19 at 1813 UTC. Lucky last contact was with K8LTG. The 22-member 3Y0X team, headed by led by Ralph Fedor, K0IR, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE, now is safely aboard its ship, the DAP Mares and plans a stop in the South Shetlands on the way home. Because of its remote location in the Bellinghousen Sea near Antarctica and the severe weather conditions, Peter I has been activated but rarely and remains one of the most-wanted DXCC entities. The DXpedition is estimated to cost upward of \$500,000, making it the most costly ever undertaken. Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Ralph Fedor, K0IR, are the co-leaders of the 3Y0X effort. For additional information, visit the Peter I DXpedition Web site <<http://www.peterone.com/>>.

The NSARA Contest (Continued from page 3)

Some counties have a large number of Amateurs, while others have only one or two active hams. Guysborough has only one active ham capable of operating on HF. Richmond county also has only one active ham on HF. So, if you hope to make a "Clean Sweep" in the contest, you must grab a contact quickly if you hear either of the above mentioned counties.

The contest committee encourages Clubs or other groups of hams, to do a "Field Day" type of operation during the contest. There are no contest restrictions on who can operate from one call, so a MULTI SINGLE type of operation is encouraged, especially if BASIC level hams are involved. This contest type experience may encourage them to pass the 5 word code level requirement.

73, and Good Luck in the Contest.

SEND LOGS TO:

NSARA Contest C/O

Martin Thomas (VE1AUZ)

R.R.#1 Bridgewater

Lun. Co., Nova Scotia B4V 2V9

NASA Science News for March 6, 2006 Courtesy of Wayne, VE1WPH

Something's happening on the sun: all the sunspots have vanished. Solar physicists say this is a sign that solar minimum has arrived.

FULL STORY at

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/06mar_solarminimum.htm?list93646

Find out about the Science@NASA

Podcast feed at

<http://science.nasa.gov/podcast.htm>.

"US Repeater Guide" on line at

<http://www.ham-shack.com/repeater.html>

(Courtesy of Ken, VY2RU)

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 26 FCC'S ADELSTEIN "IMPRESSED" WITH SDR, COGNITIVE RADIO TECHNOLOGIES

FCC commissioner Jonathan Adelstein helped to kick off the Global Regulatory Summit on SDR [software-defined radio] and Cognitive Radio last month in Washington, DC. Speaking June 20, Adelstein concluded that the "right kind" of spectrum management policy can promote SDR and cognitive radio development by pushing boundaries to accommodate new technologies and services.

"As policy makers, we always need to consider the latest technologies in managing the spectrum," said Adelstein, one of the Commission's two Democratic appointees. "And it is my hope that software-defined and cognitive radio technologies will open new avenues for innovation and service to improve the quality of communications for people the world over." Adelstein says he's been "very impressed by the advancing capabilities of software defined and cognitive radio technologies."

FlexRadio Systems <<http://www.flex-radio.com/>> introduced the first software-defined Amateur Radio product at Dayton Hamvention 2004--the SDR-1000. In his review of the unit in last April's QST, Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said the SDR-1000 "opens a new chapter in the history of Amateur Radio." He pointed out that the unit is the first off-the-shelf HF/6 meter transceiver that uses software to define its functionality. The ARRL honored FlexRadio founder Gerald Youngblood, AC5OG, with the 2002 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award, for his groundbreaking SDR articles in QEX, which describe the development of the SDR-1000. Youngblood is a member of the ARRL SDR Working Group.

The FCC approved the first SDR-enabled base station--a cellular transmitter--last fall. An FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket 03-108, is pending to further streamline SDR requirements.

The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio is "a fertile testing ground" for SDRs and that the technology would be especially valuable to facilitate disaster communications. Adelstein would appear to agree. One of the more promising benefits, he suggested, lies in SDR's potential to facilitate communication among various groups of emergency responders.

"Here in the US, it is not unusual for police in one city to have difficulty communicating with the local fire department, the police in the next county, or with federal agencies covering similar jurisdictions," Adelstein pointed out. SDRs also can improve flexibility and dramatically cut operational costs, he noted.

Cognitive radio technology, which Adelstein called "the so-called next generation of software defined radio," adds a new dimension to SDR technology--the ability to recognize the world around it and learn from experience. "Some wireless local area network devices already integrate cognitive capabilities in order to sense spectrum use and adjust power output in order maximize spectrum efficiency," he said.

"These technologies have the capability to leapfrog the technical and legal problems that currently hamper many of today's spectrum access opportunities," Adelstein said.

Cleaning Tip – Dusting

If dusting is REALLY out of control, simply place a showy urn on the coffee table and insist that "This is where Grandma wanted us to scatter her ashes."

Do you have a radio-oriented story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector?

Get them to the HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT (e-mail ve1ent@rac.ca)

The Saint John regional ARES website is at
<http://emergencyplanning.ca/ares-stj/>

Industry Canada's Emergency Telecommunication site is at

www.spectrum.ic.gc.ca/urgent

The web page of the Westcumb Amateur Radio club is at URL
www.westcumb.com

Superheterodyne

From the Columbia Encyclopedia, Second edition, 1950

- In radio receivers, the most efficient and most common circuit for radio frequency selection & amplification. In this system incoming signals are mixed with a voltage from a built-in oscillator to produce an intermediate voltage whose frequency is equal to the arithmetic difference of the unmixed voltages. The oscillator voltage is controlled usually by a variable condenser mounted on the same shaft as the station-selecting condenser. This permits equal increase or decrease in the signal and oscillator frequencies and maintains the necessary constant intermediate frequency for all dial settings. These frequencies are of course beyond the audio range and must undergo detection (separation & extraction of the audio from the carrier-radio frequency) before the broadcast can be heard. Heterodyne oscillators generate audio voltages by combining (heterodyning) two radio voltages of slightly different frequencies, so that beats or pulsations occur at regular intervals; these are used for frequency measurement in research and test equipment.

Visit the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MRCN)

Web site <http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jcraig/mrcn.html>

The Club station's call is VO1MRC

If at first you don't succeed, shouldn't you try it like your wife told you to do it?

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes - Monthly General
Meeting****Wednesday, February 15, 2006**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1937 with 35 members in attendance.

Silent Keys: We are sorry to report the following silent keys:

Burns Getchell – VE1CL,

Dave Allingham – VE1UB,

and Marion Lever, wife of

Mel Lever – VE1VX

Guests / Visitors. There were no guests or visitors in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President;
Rob Ewert (VE1KS) – 1st. Vice President;
Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – 2nd. Vice President –
Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD);
Secretary – Fraser Mac Dougall;
Treasurer; Dick Grantham (VE1AI)
Past President.

Regrets: Craig Mac Kinnon (VE1JMA) Member at Large.

Minutes of the January 18, 2006 monthly general meeting: It was moved by Dick (VE1AI) and seconded by Doug (VE1LDL) that the minutes of the January 18, 2006 meeting, as printed in the February edition of the Reflector, be adopted. Motion was carried.

Executive Reports:

Secretary's report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that the current bank balance was \$9,328.71. Following a review of the financial report, it was moved by Dick (VE1AI) and seconded by Scott (VE1QD) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion was carried. Fraser advised that at the March meeting he would present a more comprehensive statement of the club finances with a review of expenses and income compared to budget.

President's report: Bill (VE1MR) reported that Craig (VE1JMA) had been nominated a Trustee in his church. As both meetings are sched-

uled for the same day, Craig will be unable to attend the monthly club meeting. He will continue to act as Member at Large and will attend meetings of the Club Executive. Bill also reported on a recent meeting held with interested parties at the new Sir John A. Mac Donald High School. A number of items were discussed including the possibility of using the site for field day this year. It was determined that the site will not be turned over to the school until July 15th and as a result will not be available for use as the field day site. The site will be available to the Club in 2007. There was a discussion on the formation of a club / club station at the school. It was determined that this would be explored in the future. It was agreed to ascertain if coax cable(s) could be run now to a space that could be used as a club station site in the future. It was agreed that the school, with assistance of HARC, will participate in an ARISS contact hopefully in the later part of October or the 1st part of November, 2006.

1st. Vice President's report: Rob (VE1KS) reported that work was carried out on HNS this past weekend. The repeater rack had been re-wired, new panels manufactured, and wooden bases installed to assist in the installation of future gear. The VHF radio had been replaced, and two (2) enhancements had been added. A switchable tone of 82.5 Hz has been installed for those wishing to use it. It is NOT required to get into the repeater. Tone will possibly be added to VE1PSR in the future for transmit only.

2nd. Vice President's report: Howard (VE1DHD) advised that the door prizes for the evening draw was a set of two (2) stainless, insulated mugs. He advised that the entertainment for the evening consisted of a presentation, by Murray (VE1MMD) and himself, on plans for the Club's 75th anniversary celebrations. The HF tutorial is scheduled for April 1st. To date, only five

(5) participants have signed up. He encouraged new hams and those new to HF to attend; and those members with knowledge of possible participants to encourage their attendance. He advised that the Club would be willing to put on a number of workshops including Power Point and DX for Windows, if the interest was there. A number indicated an interest in attending a workshop on Power Point, and a date will be announced shortly. Entertainment for March will consist of Scott Hawkes giving a presentation on the TMR system, and for May will include a visit to the EOC in Dartmouth. Barry Manuel (VE1JRG) will give a presentation on the EOC and John Webber will give those in attendance a "virtual tour" of the 911 centre.

Station Manager's report: No report.

Member at Large: Craig (VE1JMA) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report.

Past President's report: Dick (VE1AI) reported that DX for Windows has arrived. Write Log will continue to be used for contests. It was clarified that VE1FO was to be used for field day, DXpeditions, and events away from the station, while VE1FQ was for use at the station. He reported that a number of club members use the UHF repeater and encouraged others to use it especially those interested in DX.

Committee reports:

Membership: Tom (VE1GTC) reported that there were eighty-six (86) members signed up for 2006 (66 full, 18 associate and 2 life).

(Continued on page 7)

REMINDER

Have you changed your address? E-mail address? Got a new call sign? We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you. Please inform Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, of any address changes.

The NSARA web site is at...
<http://users.auracom.com/nsara/>

HARC Minutes - Monthly General Meeting – Wednesday, Feb.15/06

(Continued from page 6)

Search and Rescue: Dave George (VE1AJP) reported that a number of searches had been carried out recently. He indicated that during one search in the Crystal Crescent Beach area, a number of agencies were involved. He reported on the high level of cooperation among all the agencies, and the ability of all to communicate with each other.

EMO: Dave George (VE1AJP) advised that a number of training opportunities were available including Level 2 communications. He encouraged members to avail themselves of these opportunities for training. An exercise is in the works for later on in the spring which will provide hands on opportunities for those who have received training. Applications have been made to acquire nine (9) or ten (10) call signs which will be assigned to hospitals. There is a push on to have permanent communications equipment installed in the hospitals.

Flea Market: Murray (VE1MMD) gave an update on the flea market. He reported that, through efforts of members of the committee, plans for a successful flea market are moving ahead. We have confirmation that Durham Radio will be in attendance. Members wishing them to bring specific items to the flea market can contact them directly or let Murray know. Industry Canada has confirmed their attendance. RAC has confirmed that they will have a representative present, along with a display of their products. We are awaiting confirmation from EMO and NSARA. It is anticipated that the QSL Bureau will be on site, and efforts will be made to have DXCC checking available. Macfarlane (HC) Electronics Ltd. Have sent regrets due to a scheduling conflict, but have offered to send fliers and a door prize. Accommodations are tentatively at the Lakeview Inn, and the Friday Night Social is scheduled to be held Capt. Eli's. Members of

SARA have volunteered to handle the door, and also will be putting in a number of tables as a fund raising event for the Red Cross telecoms center. If you have any surplus equipment that you do not want and wish to donate to this effort, please contact Emil (VE1ESP) or any member of SARA, for a pick up. The brochure is in hand and will be available shortly.

Field Day: Howard (VE1DHD) reported that since the Tantallon site was unavailable, a number of other sites were considered, with York Redoubt being selected. The site will be visited by a number of the executive, once the snow goes, to take a close look at possible sites for the stations. It appears that we may have to pay for a Commissionaire to be on site overnight, as the site is usually closed overnight. We will operate as a 2 Alpha site.

DX Forum: There was nothing new to report. There will be a Forum and a large number of participants are expected.

Course: Scott (VE1QD) reported that the course is going well with three (3) more sessions planned. He expressed concern over the number of dropouts from the course and he attributed this, in part, to the length of the course. He advised that he would like to meet with a number of interested members to review options for presenting the course, including shortening the time frame, a mentoring program, and "on line" training.

Old Business: There was no old business to report.

New Business:

Ham Breakfast. It was agreed that we again hold our annual Ham Breakfast. It is tentatively scheduled to be held on March 18th at the Steak and Stein on Young Street. Howard (VE1DHD) agreed to coordinate the breakfast.

Truro ARC Supper. The Truro Amateur Radio Club Supper has been booked for February 18th at

the Chow Family Restaurant. Members were encouraged to advise Bruce (VE1II) of your intention to attend.

50/50: The 50/50 draw in the amount of \$30.00 was won by John (VE1CDD)



Door Prize: The pair of mugs was won by Dick (VE1AI).



It was moved by Dick (VE1AI) that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2038.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD,
Secretary, Halifax Amateur
Radio Club

It's wise to remember how easily technology can be misused, sometimes unintentionally, with serious consequences.

Consider the case of the Illinois man who left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory.

Unfortunately, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint.

At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

Dearest Wife,

Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

P.S. Sure is hot down here.

**Answer to puzzler on page 2**

They can rewrite the exam anytime that they can make arrangements with a volunteer examiner.

From the Mail Bag



Hi guys, Thought you might be interested in reading this article as published in Delta's magazine called "Sky". It provides some interesting descriptions of incidents involving a particular ham but also describes Ham Radio capabilities that would make sense to someone who is not familiar with our emergency capabilities. ("They are like ants at a picnic. You can knock out some, many or even most of them, and they still get to the food. Each one is a mobile, independent unit working in cooperation for a common goal.")

I am sure there are others at HARC who would also be interested in reading this article. Please pass it on.

73, Bob, VE1PQ/W4

From: SoFlaHams@yahooogroups.com

The link below is to an article on amateur radio that was published in Delta Airline's in-flight magazine.

Enjoy

Evelyn W4WYR

http://www.delta-sky.com/2006_02/RolePlaying/index.html

Greetings from Battleship New Jersey.

We are proud to sponsor the annual amateur radio **Museum Ships Weekend Event**. This year the event will take place from 0000Z June 3, 2006 - 2359Z June 4, 2006. We would be very happy to have your ships participate in the event.

Ships wishing to participate should send a note to museum@nj2bb.org with the name of ship, callsign, location, qsl info and contact info for person responsible.

We look forward to working you on the air.

Very best 73, Harry - AA2WN
Battleship New Jersey ARS

Be sure to visit our webpage at
www.nj2bb.org

Hi: Has anyone seen a fleet of ducks? I have mentioned this to several but no one has seen it so one assumes a duck doctor of some description would have to explain it. I backed our trailer out on Gilbert Point next to the Gilberts Cove Lighthouse and did some radio operating as a member of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from September 28th until October 2nd, 2005. This lighthouse is ARLHS number CAN200. It was a very beautiful campsite and Joan visited with her sister and parents leaving me with the lighthouse, trailer, gulls, ducks, squirrels, the odd Micmac Indian, and the occasional American tourist. I had Gilberts Cove 30 feet on my left and St. Mary's Bay 100 feet on my right, all part of the Bay of Fundy. One afternoon I glanced out the window to see how my peanuts were holding out that I was feeding the little red squirrels. They are so small some Americans found it hard to believe they are squirrels. When I looked out I noticed a fleet of ducks swimming in. I had done research on World War II convoys and am very pleased with my description of Convoy BX-141. Robert Maskill, G4PYR has most of it on his website one can bring up and read if they like. It is near the end of Section 7 in "Radio Stations Common? Not This Kind". This fleet of ducks was a fleet of 14 ducks swimming in formation. The tide was nearly up and they swam in with 11 in the main body and 3 playing warship on patrol. The three on patrol were in a straight line and looked like three destroyers. They swam up to the very edge of the water and each duck checked the edge but did not get out of the water. They soon turned and reformed then swam back out around Gilbert Point with the same three still on patrol in a straight line. The only difference between them and a World War II convoy is that the 11 were in triangle formation and not a rectangular formation. They were Black Ducks but I have no idea what they were trying to prove.

Spud VE1BC ARLHS-1052



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 08, February 24, 2006

International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, this month educated & inspired youngsters in Florida and in the Australian outback during separate Amateur Radio contacts. McArthur spoke from NA1SS with youngsters attending Collier County, Florida, public schools on Feb. 8, and at the Charleville Cosmos Centre (an observatory in outback Queensland some 800 km west of Brisbane, Australia) on Feb. 17. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged both events.

Members of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida (ARASWF) set up and operated the equipment necessary for the direct VHF contact between NA1SS and K4YHB at Pine Ridge Middle School, a NASA Explorer School.

9 days later, youngsters attending the Charleville School of Distance Education gathered at the Cosmos Centre in the Australian outback to hook up with McArthur via ham radio and a Verizon Conferencing teleconferencing link from WH6PN at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu to the Queensland facility.

The school had waited nearly two years for its contact to be scheduled, and just 12 hours before the event a thunderstorm knocked out telephone service throughout the town. Earth station operator and ARISS veteran Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, said a repair crew managed to get the telephone system back up with only two hours to spare.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> is an international educational outreach with US participation from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 44, November 11, 2005
 LF Experimentation by Radio Amateurs Continues Quietly
 Experimentation by radio amateurs in the nether regions of the radio spectrum continues quietly and largely unnoticed outside of the LF community. Some US amateur licensees have obtained Experimental licenses to research the possibilities of LF, including transatlantic and transpacific propagation. A few hams in Canada have obtained special permission from Industry Canada to operate on LF using Amateur Radio call signs. A noteworthy accomplishment was a 137 kHz QSO spanning some 1340 miles <<http://www.w1tag.com/XDWQSO.htm>> Oct.29/05 between Laurence Howell, KL1X--operating as WD2XDW--and John Andrews, W1TAG--operating as WD2XES.

In 2001, Larry Kayser, VA3LK (SK), and Laurie Mayhead, G3AQC, received a special Transatlantic Challenge plaque for completing the first 2-way Amateur Radio LF contact between the UK & Canada earlier that year. Another plaque went to Dave Bowman, G0MRF, John Currie, VE1ZJ, & Jack Leahy, VE1ZZ, for completing a crossband (HF/LF) transatlantic QSO in 2000.

A year ago, New Zealand LFER Mike McAlevey, ZL4OL, copied Howell's WD2XDW 137 kHz carrier "bursts" over a path of more than 13,000 km (8000 miles), while Jim Moritz, M0BMU, copied LF signals from WD2XDW, Andrews' WD2XES and Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Newfoundland. Craig and Alan Melia, G3NYK, described their LF exploits and experiences in "The Transatlantic on 2200 Meters," in July 2005 QST <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/2005/07/craig.pdf>>.

The first confirmed transpacific reception of Canadian Amateur Radio LF signals occurred Oct.4/05 when the very slow speed (QRSS) CW signals of VA7LF were heard by ZM2E in New Zealand. "Signals from the ZM2E club station were heard in Canada as well, but propagation was not of sufficient duration to enable a QSO to be completed," said Steve McDonald, VE7SL, one of the VA7LF operators. ZM2E and UA0LE hold the current Amateur Radio two-way LF world record at a distance of 10,311 km (6393 mi). The distance between VA7LF and ZM2E is approximately 11,700 km (7254 mi).

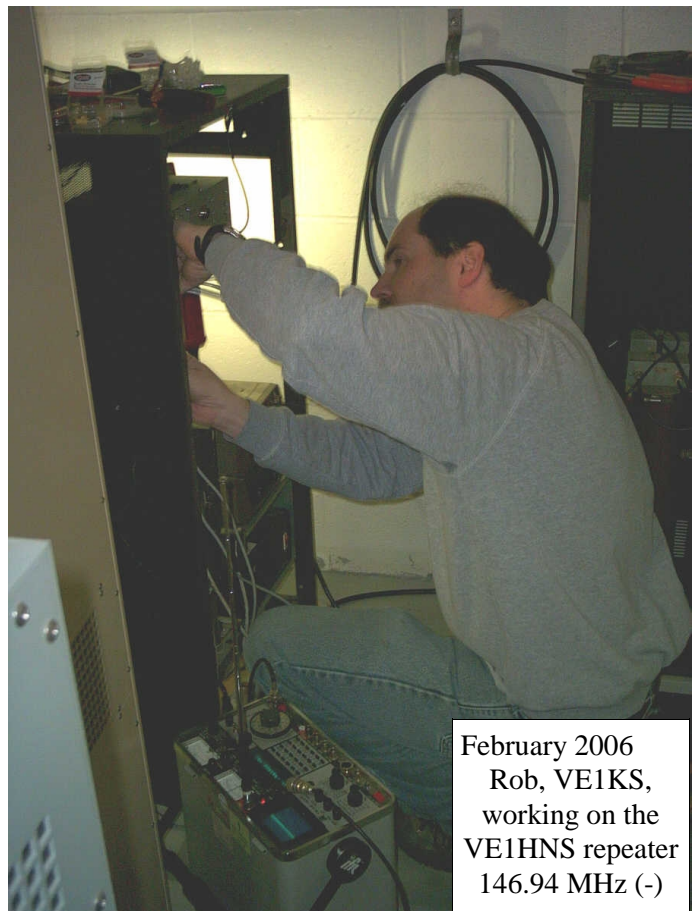
LFers typically use very low data rates and process the incoming sound-card audio in real time using DSP software like WOLF or ARGO. During the October 29 contact, which took more than two hours to complete, Andrews was running 200 W output into a large, tree-supported vertical loop. Howell was running 1 kW into a tree-supported vertical loop.

Experimentation under FCC Part 15 rules in the vicinity of 160 to 190 kHz has been going on for years by radio amateurs and non-amateurs alike. Amateur Radio licensees in Europe and elsewhere have an allocation at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, and most Amateur Radio experimentation takes place in this band.

Many of us enjoy the benefits of using the **repeaters** in Nova Scotia and elsewhere. But we seldom stop to consider that they don't appear by magic or for zero dollars; and they do require planning & maintenance by a handful of knowledgeable individuals as well as the generous cooperation of public service-minded "site" owners. (Not to mention requiring successful negotiations that would frequently do credit to career diplomats.)

In addition to the repeaters currently in operation in Nova Scotia, progress is being made on the "Keji" repeater project. It is expected that this repeater, to be located at the Park fire tower, will provide 2 meter amateur radio coverage for at least the Kejimikujik National Park area which is currently mainly dead for cell phone and TMR communications.

So on behalf of the hams who use them, **Thank You** to those who make ham radio repeaters a reality. -ed.



February 2006
 Rob, VE1KS,
 working on the
 VE1HNS repeater
 146.94 MHz (-)

Think you're having a bad day? It could be worse...

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were being released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

QSL'ing - a Courtesy

Last month's Reflector listed a great number of our local fellow amateurs who have QSL's waiting to be picked up or mailed out from the VE1 QSL BUREAU.

It has come to my attention that some of us feel that you must belong to ARRL or RAC in order to receive QSL's from the bureau. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** The QSL bureau here is operated by volunteers. The bureau service, for INCOMING QSL cards is FREE. All you need to do to receive your QSL's is to send the bureau some money to cover their cost of mailing the QSL's to you. It is that simple.

The easiest way to send some money to the bureau is to mail a cheque to VE1VCK at 20 Shea St., Lr. Sackville, NS, B4C 2A9 or via the HARC P O BOX 8895, Halifax, NS, B3K 5M5. Make your cheque payable to "Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau". That will speed up the process and make it simple.

Another important fact about the bureau is that the more people use it, the more the overhead costs become distributed and the lower the average costs becomes per mailing. There is a small surcharge per mailing to help cover the fixed costs such as stationery, the post office box rental etc.

Also we here in the Maritimes are noted for our friendliness and our courtesy. When you contact a fellow amateur, he/she will often request a QSL. It is simply polite to return the request with a QSL of your own. If you have a small number of requests and you do not have a QSL for your station, why not stop by a gift shop and pick up a few postcards. You can hand write the info on the back and make someone very happy, as well as appreciative of the of the photo on the card. It is a courtesy.

If you do not ever intend to QSL please tell the amateur at the time of the contact. Also if you do not ever intend to QSL, notify the bureau via mail, phone or e-mail (ve1vck@rac.ca), so any cards that do arrive for you, may be returned.

Please note that VE1 is still rare on the air, compared to W2 (New York, New Jersey), or G (England), or DL (Germany). Many many stations desire a QSO with NS, NB and PEI. They also treasure the QSL's.

Let's keep in the tradition with our friendly courteous manner here in Eastern Canada, help the bureau distribute the QSL's they are holding, and help your fellow amateurs in distant QTH's by responding to all QSL's received.

Anyone wanting assistance with QSL'ing, please feel free to contact me at anytime. I am more than willing to help.

Dick, VE1AI

FREE online classifieds Submit your classified ad in the HARC Swapshop. Once your ad has been posted you can come back at any time and modify or delete your posting as necessary. We hope you enjoy the HARC Swapshop and will come back often. If so, please spread the word about it.

Make a note of the ad number and your password for your ad for future reference. You'll need these if you ever want to modify or delete your classified ad

*Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?
Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me
in the supermarket.*

**NOVA SCOTIA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION*****Serving Amateur Radio Since 1957***

The NSARA does many things for Amateur Radio in Nova Scotia

Liase between ham radio and Provincial, Municipal Governments

Emergency Measures Preparedness & Communications Training

Amateur License Plate Program

Contesting to promote Amateur Radio

Worked all Nova Scotia Counties (WARC)
VHF Century Club (VHFCC)
The NSARA Contest

School Bursaries

Frequency Co-Ordination
(VHF ~ UHF)

Assistance for Provincial linking

Co-Sponsoring the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) Voice over Internet World Wide

Yearly Hamfest & Picnic, CW Contest, Fox Hunt, Home Brew, Distress Message Copying

For More information on how you can become a Member and help promote your HOBBY please contact.

President: Tom Cohoon VE1TA

Vice-Pres: James Hannon VE1AFH

Secretary: Bruce Harvey VE1II

Treasurer: Shirley Cohoon VE1JFG

Or any director from your club.....

The NSARA Website is

www.oceanet.ns.ca/nsara

to send email to all directors simultaneously nsara@yahoogroups.com or use the RAC Mail Reflector ex: ve1@rac.ca

MEMBERSHIP \$10.00

Planning to use the **Club station** for a ham radio activity?

Contact Station Manager Brian Allen, VE1AZV

E-mail basailor@eastlink.ca
to **reserve it for your date & time**